Greetings from the St. Francis School District. We hope you had a wonderful 4th of July. It was great seeing everyone at the St. Francis 4th of July Parade. We have two updates in this communication: Capital Referendum Update and Revised Face Covering Expectations.

**Capital Referendum Update.** Thank you to all of the staff who participated in the referendum focus meetings. Staff were very helpful in developing the designs. We will reconvene the focus groups when staff return to the buildings in August. The next major planning meeting with the SFSD School Board will be on August 9 to initial cost estimates.

**Revision of the Face Covering Expectations.** At the July 12 Board meeting, there was an extensive conversation about a proposed revision for optional face coverings expectations. There was a great exchange of ideas and we appreciate everyone taking time to share their thoughts in a truly respectful manner. This will be an ongoing dialogue. The presence of the virus remains low in our region. We continue to follow CDC guidelines and consult with local health officials to guide our decision-making. As we all know and have experienced during the pandemic, conditions and guidelines change from time to time. Thank you for working with us.

Effective July 12, 2021, face coverings will be optional for all students over the age of twelve (12) for after-school hours activities and events with the exception of individuals that have been identified by the District Nurse or Isolation Room Supervisor as being symptomatic. Face coverings would be required for school day activities.

As we get closer to August, look for our back-to-school communications. We also hope to see you at **St. Francis National Night Out on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Vretenar Park.**

Have a wonderful July!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Elworthy
Superintendent